

Equip/Support Lay Leaders

- Supporting deeper lay education (Preaching Among Friends, DIAKONIA)
- Building a lay preaching and lay leadership team (Synod Authorized Ministers - SAMs)
- Supporting current SAMs by a complete bottom up assessment of how SAMs are selected, supported, placed, and mentored.
- Connecting congregational leaders with deeper support (current example: group zooms with congregations in transition)

Clarify Congregation Paths/Purposes

- Vitality and Visioning consults
- Pathways program (1 year discernment process)
- Creating shared ministry strategy and initiating umbrella conversation in all the conferences
- Nurturing shared ministry opportunities already in process
- Support and equip congregations in transition
- Anti-racism awareness
- Focus on innovation opportunities
- Assist congregations in right sizing ministry to context

Appraise/Generate Care for Rostered Ministers

- Crisis care and ongoing support
- Generate resources for spiritual direction, coaching, and continuing ed opportunities
- Identify and provide places and spaces for connection & collaboration
- Creating 3 year cycle for boundaries training (fall 2024 Region 5 initiative)
- Create and support network of interims
- Seek out new partners/leaders for ministry in NIS

Maintain and Revise Operations

- Be transparent in our processes AND agile in our implementation
- Utilize database for effective and clear purposes
- Maintain, adapt, and utilize financial goals in ways that adhere with internal controls
- Implement endowment fund committee and goals
- Devise mission support strategy
- Identify grants and funding streams beyond mission support
- Maintain all the necessary lists, rosters, supports and logistical area

A Glimpse of What's Happening: Synod Strategies

Daily Work

- Lift up abundance of Portico resources
- Build in areas of diversity and inclusion work
- Presence at conference and congregational levels - we want to be with you!

Devise/Implement Communication Methods to "Tell the Story"

- Twice monthly e-news
- Quarterly bulletin insert
- Video messages from Bishop Fidler (Upcoming Easter 2 sermon video)
- Website refresh
- Resources for all aspects of ministry
- Social media channels
- Communicate the work of Synod Council and committees



Congregational Resourcing Event 2024

Time with Bishop Stacie Fidler

This has been a guiding map for NIS staff for a little over a year. It names the 5 strategic area where we have focused our ministry. Members of the Synod Council will recognize it, with a little bit of tweaking to a couple of the areas.

The Northern Illinois Synod Mission Statement.

These middle themes are guides for the first 3 years of our ministry together. They support CRE, Synod Assembly, and Professional Leaders Conference programs as well as the questions we ask congregations to be aware of in their journey.

Walking Together

Loving Christ, Loving all for the sake of the world

Be the Body

Open God's Story

Live the Kingdom

Equip/Support Lay Leaders for Serving

Appraise & Generate Care for Rostered Ministers

Clarify Cong Paths + Purpose

Revise & Maintain Operations (create agility and stability)

Communications Strategy - Tell the Story of our Vision

These are the 5 area strategies that are guiding our work and initiatives. They emerge out of our mission statement together with synod and community needs. The reverse side talks about some of the work and initiatives related to each of these areas.

We also have several value filters that guide us. The most frequently referenced is:

(1) Spirit Empowered (2) Lay Led. and (3) Rostered Minister Supported.

These 3 weave together as we look at the future of the church.



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America